

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 11, 2002, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the disclosure is objected to for containing informalities.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claim 2 is also rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over German reference 29 26 549.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the disclosure applicant has amended the specification to include a listing of the related PCT data.

In view of this change it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the disclosure is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claim, applicant has amended claim 2.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim now on file particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 2 to address the instances of indefiniteness cited by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It should be mentioned that the claim now on file specifically defines a valve solenoid housing which is resistant to damage caused by internal explosion. In the present invention the coil has connecting elements that are arranged internally in the second housing part of the housing. The second housing part is configured to resist explosion pressure caused by an internal explosion and prevents transmission of the explosion to the environment. Thus, explosion pressure-resistant encapsulation of the connecting elements is provided. This is not

disclosed by German reference 29 26 549. The connecting elements 31 of this reference are not arranged internally in the second housing part and thus are not encapsulated thereby in an explosion pressure-resistant manner, as in the presently claimed invention. The reference does not disclose the unique combination of features recited in claim 2 presently on file, particularly the casting compound in the first part of the housing which embeds the coil and the iron circuit and thereby prevents an explosive pressure from reaching the live parts and simultaneously fixes the coil and the iron circuit, and coil connecting elements arranged internally in a second housing part which is configured to resist explosion pressure caused by internal explosion and thereby provides explosion pressure resistant encapsulation of the connecting elements, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Claims:

2. (Amended) A valve solenoid comprising: a housing having [two parts] a first part and a second part and which can be employed in areas endangered by explosion; a coil; an iron circuit, the coil and the iron circuit being arranged in the housing; and a casting compound introduced into [a] the first part of the housing so as to embed the coil and the iron circuit [whereby] so that the casting compound prevents an explosive atmosphere from reaching live parts and simultaneously fixes the coil and iron circuitry and provides electrical insulation, the coil having connecting elements arranged internally in [a] the second housing part which is configured to resist explosion pressure in case of an internal explosion and prevents transmission of the explosion to the environment thereby providing explosion pressure-resistant encapsulation of the connecting elements.